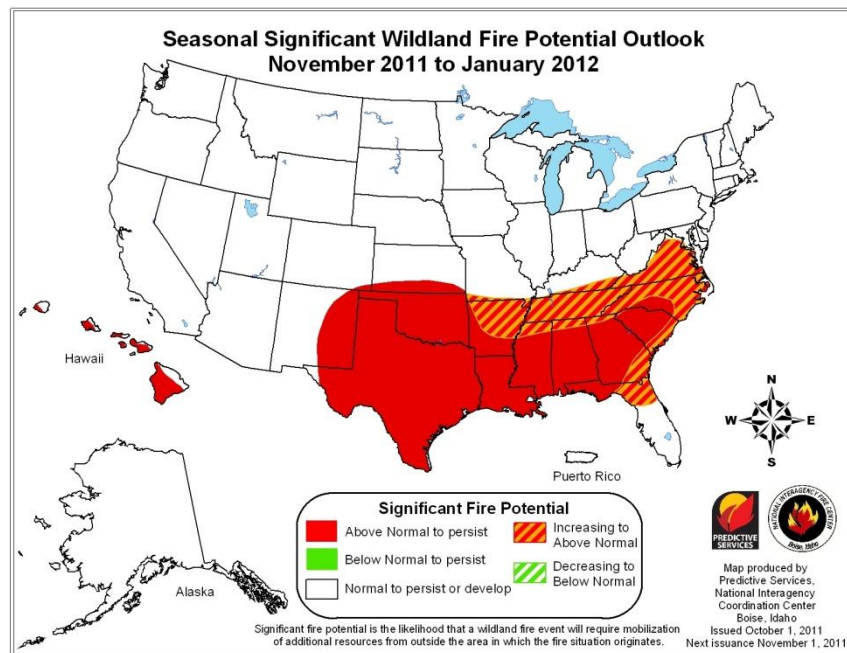
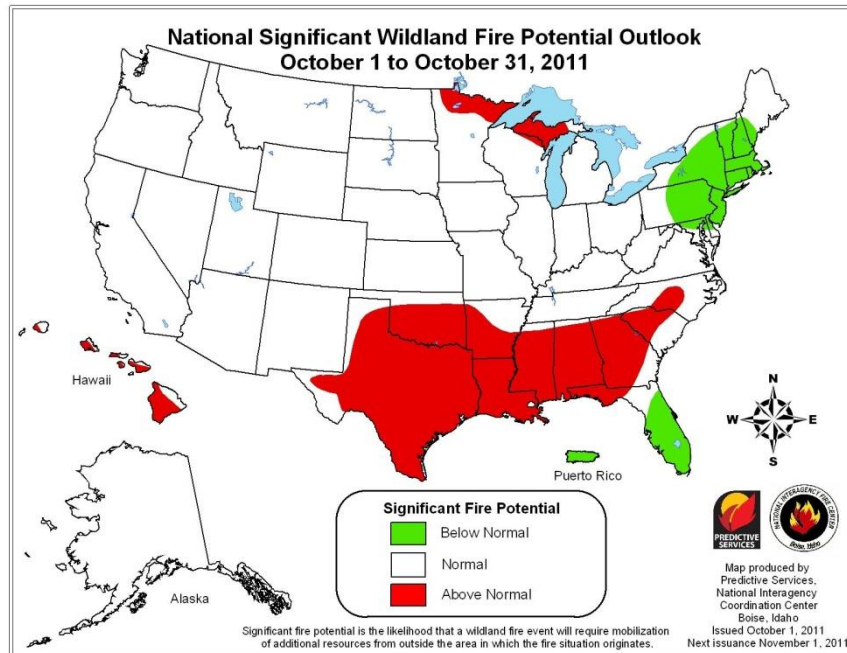


Western Great Basin Monthly and Seasonal Outlook

Issued: September 30, 2011

Valid for: October 2011-January 2012

WGB Monthly and Seasonal Outlook: NORMAL through January 2012



Weather Conditions Over the Last 30 Days

The average temperature over the last 30 days, ending September 29, 2011, averaged 3 to 7 degrees above normal over most of northern Nevada, with areas of 1-3 degrees above normal over central and southern Nevada. (See **Figure 2**).

Precipitation over the last 30 days has been well below normal for the northern half of the state, with areas in the northwest receiving less than 5% of normal precipitation. Near normal to slightly above normal precipitation occurred in south-central Nevada, while well above normal precipitation was recorded in far southern Nevada. See **Figure 3**.

This is in stark contrast to the year's accumulated rainfall shown in **Figure 4**. Since Oct 1, 2010 rainfall has been abundant over almost all of the state, with large areas of eastern, northern and western Nevada showing 150-200% of normal. Just a few small areas were below 100% of normal in parts of Nye County and northwest Nevada.

The southwest monsoon has provided abundant moisture for thunderstorm formation this season, and in most instances very little rainfall. This has led to a number of ignitions and more total acres burned than we have seen in the last 3 years.

10-14 day forecasts show the coming of typical fall-season cold, wet low pressure systems in early October. This leads us to think that **our current total acres burned (106,795 acres as of September 30, 2011)** should only increase slightly during this coming month.

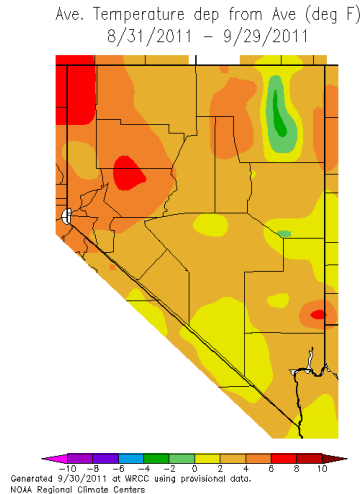


Figure 2: 30-Day Avg. Temps Departure from Avg. (deg F)

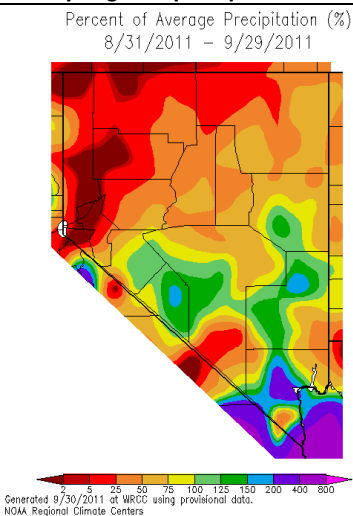


Figure 3: 30-Day Percent of Avg. Precipitation

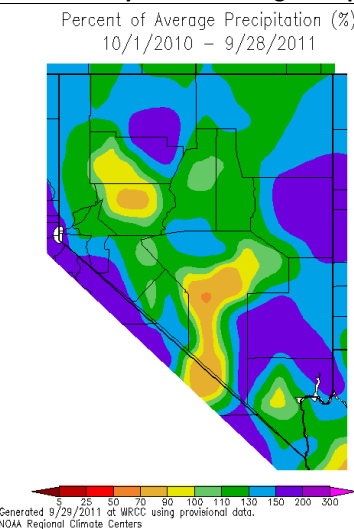


Figure 4: Percent of Avg. Precipitation since Oct 1, 2010

Climate Factors and Long Range Outlooks

La Niña has made a return. The Climate Prediction Center is forecasting equal chances of above/below temperatures and precipitation for most of Nevada during November 2011 to January 2012 (**See Figures 6 and 7**), with a slight chance of warm/dry conditions for far southern NV. This would coincide with the impacts expected of a La Niña.

The U.S. Drought Monitor (**Figure 8**), issued by the Climate Prediction Center on September 27, 2011, shows abnormally dry conditions in central NV and along the Arizona/Nevada border area. This is a change from the moderate to severe drought that has occurred in previous years. Current conditions are essentially expected to persist through December 2011 (**Figure 9**).

Western Great Basin Outlook

Considering all of these factors, the Western Great Basin should expect the summer fire season to close out with roughly 120,000 acres burned.

Fire activity typically drops to near zero as we pass into October. Although large fire activity has occasionally persisted into October, it is rare, and we do not expect any large fires to occur in the October to January time frame this year.

Fuels are currently quite dry, with ERCs in the 80-90% range. However, forecast heavy rain and below-normal temperatures combined with reduced hours of daylight will effectively eliminate the chances of large fire growth in October.

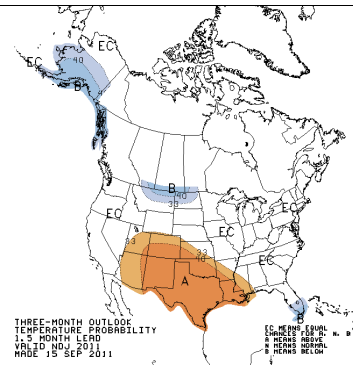


Figure 6: Three Month Temperature Outlook - NDJ

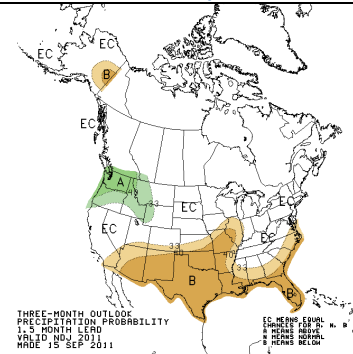


Figure 7: Three Month Precipitation Outlook - NDJ

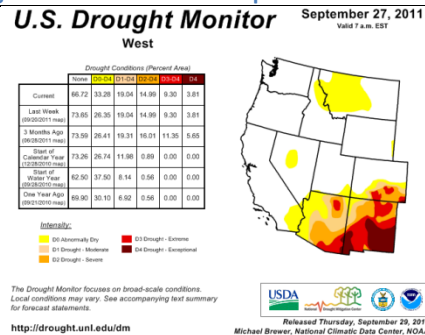


Figure 8: U.S. Drought Monitor

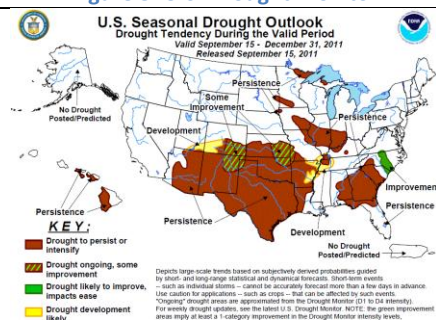


Figure 9: U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook